

What is claimed is:

1. A networked restaurant table turn control and display system comprising:

two or more monitoring consoles, each monitoring console comprising:

means for displaying a restaurant layout having indicia, the indicia being representative of tables available for seating in the restaurant and being for communicating to the staff working in the restaurant, one of a dinner wait of a pre-set number of patrons or less, a dinner wait of a pre-set number of patrons or more, a need to call the manager on duty to the front desk, a table reservation and hold mode and combinations thereof;

touch screen means for activating desired status changes on the system such that when the restaurant layout is touched on a selected indicia, the desired status change on the networked system for the selected indicia is activated;

means for illuminating the selected indicia;

a controller circuit in electronic operative communication with the touch screen means and the means for illuminating the selected indicia, the controller circuit further including programmable circuitry means for operating and controlling the networked system, including providing status changes and communicating such status changes simultaneously to other monitoring consoles electrically and operatively connected to said monitoring console;

the status changes including table status changes and communications to the staff working in the restaurant of one of the dinner wait of the pre-set number of patrons or less, the dinner wait of the pre-set number of patrons or more, the need to call the manager on duty to the front desk, the table reservation and hold mode and the combination thereof; and

means for providing electrical power to each monitoring console.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the means for illuminating the selected indicia is a plurality of spaced-apart light emitting diode (LED) bulbs arranged in an underlying relationship to the touch screen means, such that when one of the plurality of LED bulbs is lighted under the selected indicia, the selected indicia is illuminated so as to be readily observable when looking at the monitoring console.

3. The system according to claim 1,
wherein the means for displaying the restaurant layout having indicia comprises a display screen on which an image of the desired restaurant layout, which is pre-programmed in the programmable circuitry means, is displayed; and

wherein the means for illuminating the selected indicia comprises highlighting means for illuminating selected indicia, said highlighting means being software driven and pre-programmed in the programmable circuitry means.

4. The system according to claim 1,
wherein the means for displaying the restaurant layout having indicia comprises a display screen on which an image of the desired restaurant layout, which is pre-programmed in the programmable circuitry means, is displayed, and

wherein the means for illuminating the selected indicia comprises a plurality of spaced-apart light emitting diode (LED) bulbs arranged in an underlying relationship to the touch screen means, such that when one of the plurality of LED bulbs is lighted under the selected indicia, the selected indicia is illuminated so as to be readily observable when looking at the display screen.

5. The system according to claim 1, wherein a portion of the indicia representative of tables available for seating in the restaurant is arranged in an array corresponding to the table arrangement for the restaurant in which the networked system is intended to be used.

6. The system according to claim 1, wherein the means for displaying the restaurant layout further comprises:

a designated legend and light status indicia portion indicative of the meaning of the light status observed under each of the indicia representative of tables available for seating in the restaurant.

7. The system according to claim 6, wherein the designated legend indicia portion includes selected indicia for vacant table, table ready for bussing, table not bussed within desired time period, and table occupied.

8. The system according to claim 7, wherein the light status indicia portion includes "OFF" for each vacant table, blinking for each table ready for bussing, flashing for each table not bussed within desired time period and "ON" for each table occupied.

9. The system according to claim 2, wherein the plurality of spaced-apart LED bulbs, which are aligned beneath the indicia representative of each table are grouped in combinations of a first color LED bulb and a second color LED bulb.

10. The system according to claim 3, wherein the highlighting means for illuminating the selected indicia includes means for selectively illuminating with one of a first color mode and a second color mode.

11. The system according to claim 4, wherein the plurality of spaced-apart LED bulbs, which are aligned beneath the indicia representative of each table are grouped in combinations of a first color LED bulb and a second color LED bulb.

12. The system according to claim 1, wherein the means for providing electrical power to each monitoring console is a DC power source.

13. The system according to claim 1, wherein each monitoring console networked in the system is in electrical operative communication with each other so that any status change input made at one monitoring console is simultaneously communicated to the other monitoring consoles.

14. The system according to claim 1, wherein the system has one monitoring console located at the host station of the restaurant where the system is used, and other monitoring consoles are located near one of one or more wait stations, one or more bussing stations, a kitchen station, a manager on duty station and a combination of said one or more wait stations, one or more bussing stations, kitchen station, and manager on duty station, each monitoring console being in electrical operative communication with each other so that any status change input made at any one monitoring console is simultaneously communicated to the other monitoring consoles.

15. The system according to claim 9, wherein when the table status for a specific table is vacant, the first and second color LED bulbs under the indicia for the specific vacant table, are not illuminated.

16. The system according to claim 10, wherein when the table status for a specific table is vacant, the first and second color modes under the indicia for the specific vacant table, are not illuminated.

17. The system according to claim 11, wherein when the table status for a specific table is vacant, the first and second color LED bulbs under the indicia for the specific vacant table, are not illuminated.

18. The system according to claim 9, wherein when the table status for a specific table is occupied, the first color LED bulb under the indicia for the specific table occupied is illuminated.

19. The system according to claim 10, wherein when the table status for a specific table is occupied, the first color mode under the indicia for the specific table occupied is illuminated.

20. The system according to claim 11, wherein when the table status for a specific table is occupied, the first color LED bulb under the indicia for the specific table occupied is illuminated.

21. The system according to claim 9, wherein when a specific table is designated to be on HOLD, the controller circuit in the at least one of said two or more monitoring consoles is configured and pre-programmed to activate and illuminate the second color LED bulb under the indicia for the table to be held.

22. The system according to claim 10, wherein when a specific table is designated to be on HOLD, the controller circuit in the at least one of said two or more monitoring consoles is

configured and pre-programmed to activate and illuminate the second color mode under the indicia for the table to be held.

23. The system according to claim 11, wherein when a specific table is designated to be on HOLD, the second color LED bulb under the indicia for the table to be held is illuminated.

24. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:
means for displaying alternative restaurant layout displays may be selected when table arrangements are modified in the restaurant.